

Mahathir to visit Russia and Germany

MOSCOW: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will lead a 60-member delegation for a week-long visit to Russia and Germany beginning tomorrow.

His four-day trip to Moscow is at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin while his three-day visit to Germany from Sept 18-20 is at the invitation of German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Dr Mahathir will be accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Cabinet ministers, officials and businessmen.

The Prime Minister and Putin are expected to hold talks on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

The two last met in Runei at the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) summit last November.

Roth are likely to resolve a few outstanding trade agreement issues which have hampered trade growth and economic co-operation between the two sides.

The main issue of concern is the sovereign credit guarantee to be provided by the Russian central bank under the bilateral payment agreement,

On Dr Mahathir's visit to Germany, Wisma Putra said it was to provide the opportunity to showcase Malaysia's attraction for investors and tourists,